



**Mexico & South Africa: similar social evils, potential for IWRM & implementation paralysis**

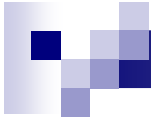
**WfGD: continue refining or risk  
implementation?**

Héctor Garduño

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*Roundtable discussion on Water for Growth and Development (WfGD)*

*Vereeniging, Gauteng, South Africa 8-9 November 2008*



## SOURCES & common concern

- DWAF 2008 '***Water for Growth & Development***' (framework document)
- Héctor Garduño, 2005, '***IWRM Implementation in South Africa: redressing past inequities and sustaining development for the future***', paper commissioned by the World Bank Institute

**how to do the right thing not only the thing  
right?**



# ROADMAP

## **MEXICAN WATER RIGHTS: a case study**

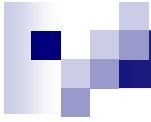
- ❑ Why water rights?
- ❑ Legal framework for water resources management
  - ✓ Constitution
  - ✓ regulatory, economic & participation tools
- ❑ User regularization & levy collection: success & drawbacks
- ❑ Are water rights enough?... the case of groundwater overexploitation
  - ✓ national level
  - ✓ farmer level

## **MEXICO & SOUTH AFRICA: similar burden and dialogue to overcome it**

- ❑ Inequality: a shared burden
- ❑ Meaningful dialogue needed for political will & cooperative government

## **SOUTH AFRICAN WfGD: a pragmatic way forward**

- ❑ Selecting a few focused priorities or loosing credibility
- ❑ Designing implementable WfGD actions



## **WHY WATER RIGHTS IN MEXICO?**

- **water distribution & development mismatch**
- **scarcity**
- **pollution**
- **conflicts among competing**
  - ☐ uses
  - ☐ users
  - ☐ states (provinces)
- **former approach: little regard to environment**
- **need to re-allocate**



1917

# CONSTITUTION

**Art 27** water is national property

**Art 25** state to ensure environmental sustainability

**Art 31** Mexicans must contribute to public expenditure

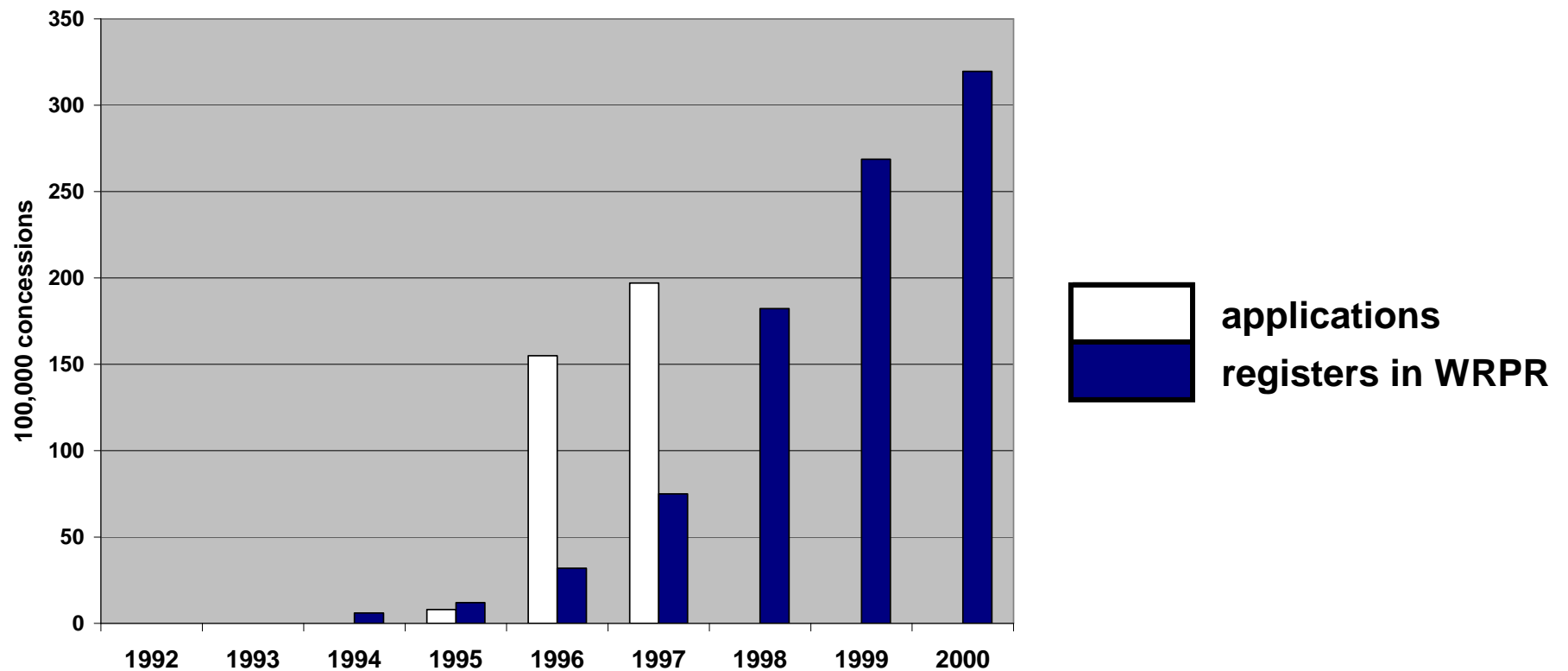


# WATER LEGISLATION TOOLS

NWL		FWLL
concessions & permits reserves & env flows rights & duties penalties & appeals	REGUL	
duty to pay levies regulated market	ECON	“user pays” “polluter pays” cross subsidies
planning, development & management	PARTIC	



# USER REGULARIZATION

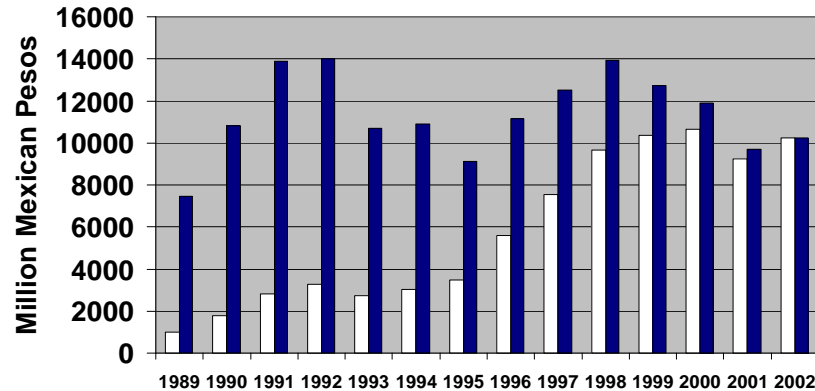


**over concession in many cases  
less than 100% reliability in WRPR  
some users declared larger volumes**

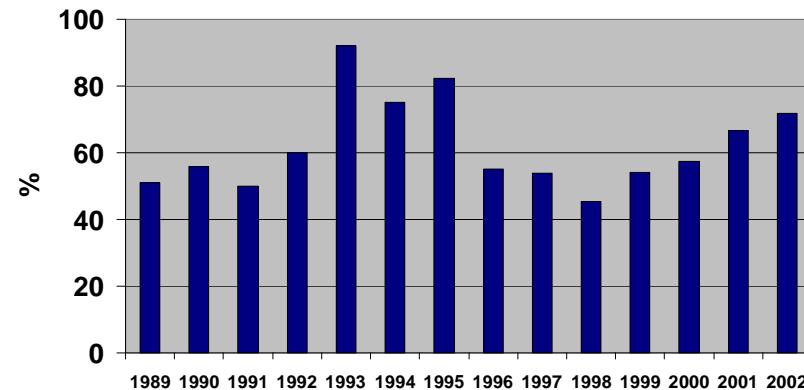
# WATER LEVY COLLECTION



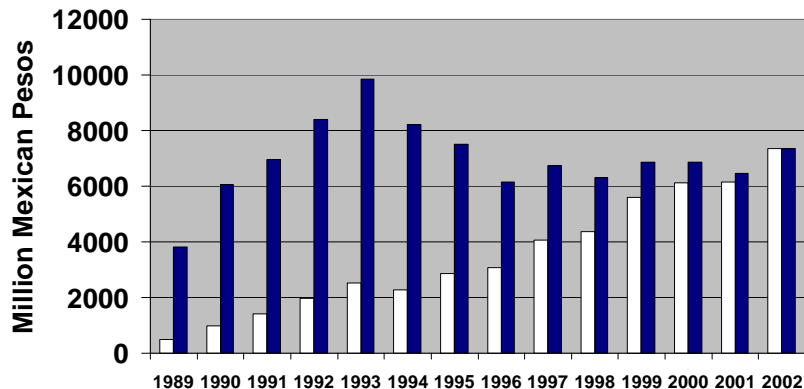
Annual budget



Income as % of budget



Annual income



**success versus harsh realities**

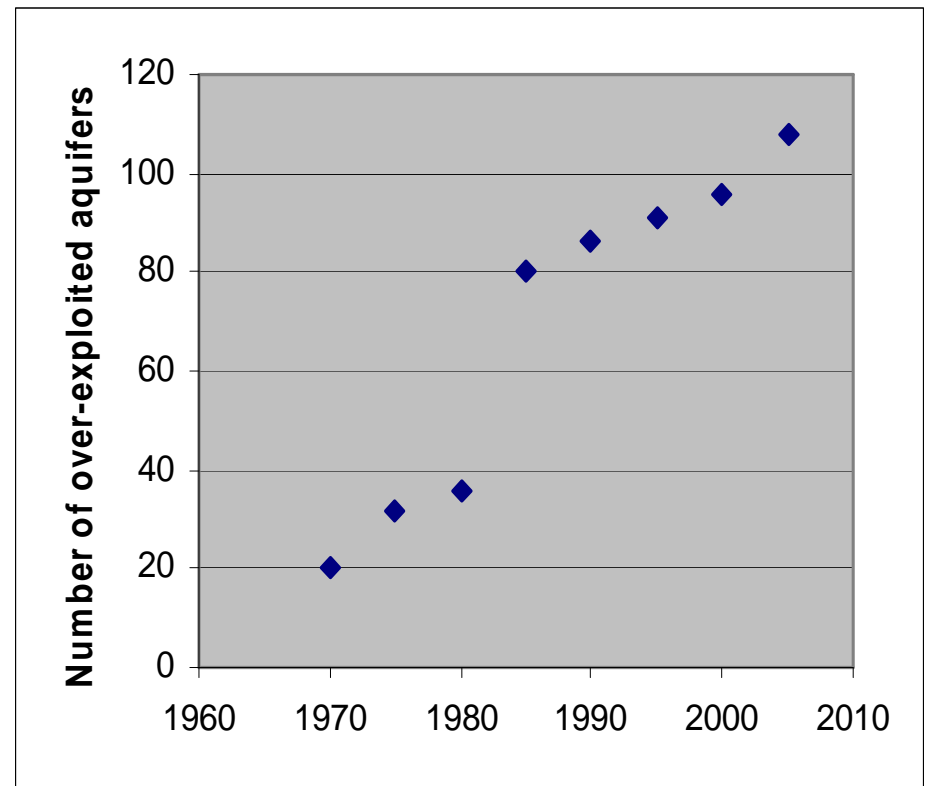
industry subsidizes others

bankrupt water utilities

farmers with high social or political standing

# OVER-EXPLOITED AQUIFERS: a matter of survival at national level

- in spite of increasing well-drilling prohibition orders since 1948 the number of over-exploited aquifers has steadily raised
- **lack of political will:** disaster chronicle instead of rational GW management





# REGULATORY MEASURES

are not enough, let's introduce **economic incentives**

## *Poor farmer*

- receives subsidy
- increases abstraction to earn more income
- authoritarian regulation
- ***agreed regulations***

incentives + regulation +  
***participation***

## *Rich farmer*

- benefits from market incentives
- increases abstraction to earn more income
- authoritarian regulation
- ***agreed regulations***

incentives + regulation +  
***participation***



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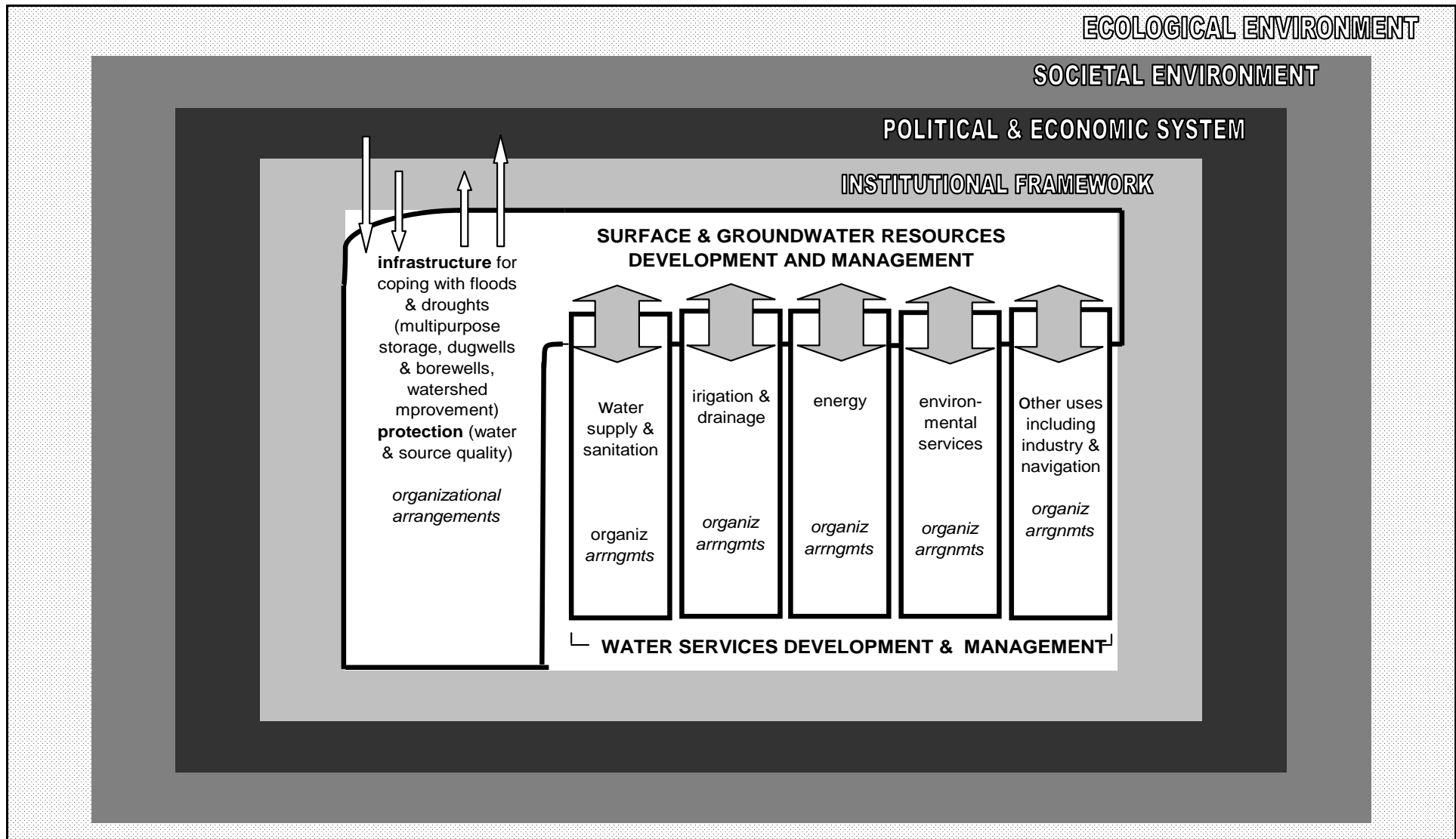
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**Nelson Mandela (UNDP 2005) ‘Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times – times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation – that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils’**

COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST INEQUALITY		SSA	LA
Namibia	70.7		
Sierra Leona	63.9		
Lesotho	63.2		
Botswana	63.0		
Rep. Central Africana	61.3		
Swazilandia	60.9		
Guatemala	59.9		
Brasil	59.3		
Paraguay	57.8		
<b>Sudáfrica</b>	<b>57.8</b>		
Colombia	57.6		
Chile	57.1		
Zimbabwe	56.8		
Panamá	56.4		
Honduras	55.0		
<b>México</b>	<b>54.6</b>		
El Salvador	53.2		
Zambia	52.6		
Argentina	52.2		
Nigeria	50.6		
Malawi	50.3		
Mali	50.5		

# BEYOND THE GWP COMB: frustration or dialogue...

**no political will?... forget it!!!**





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# SELECTING A **FEW** FOCUSED PRIORITIES

## **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

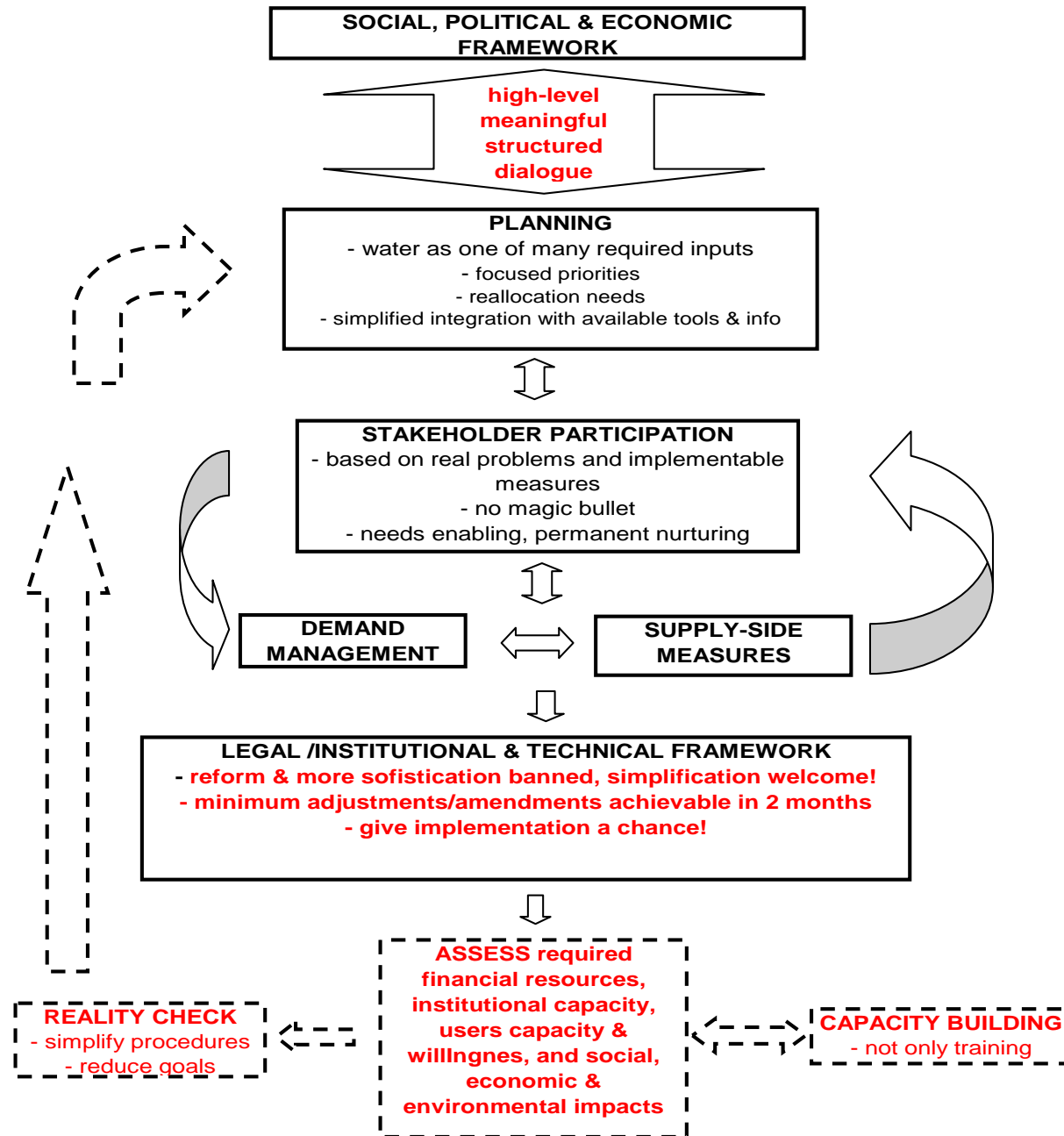
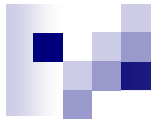
- Planning for future needs (pragmatic simple spreadsheets with available info & models)
- Reconciling demand and supply
- Managing return flows, water quality, in critical areas
- Agreeing with WRC&CSIR a pragmatic crash program
- Finalizing the institutional re-alignment fast
- Contracting only national & international consultants committed to capacity building

## **WHAT TO SIMPLIFY/RETHINK**

- WAR, including validation & verification and compulsory licensing
- Licensing procedures and use of General Authorizations
- Reserve determinations

## **WHAT TO PUT ON HOLD**

- Classification system?
- Waste discharge charging system?
- CMA establishment in certain areas?
- Climate change adaptation?
- Further policy and guideline development unless utterly critical?





**THANK YOU!**